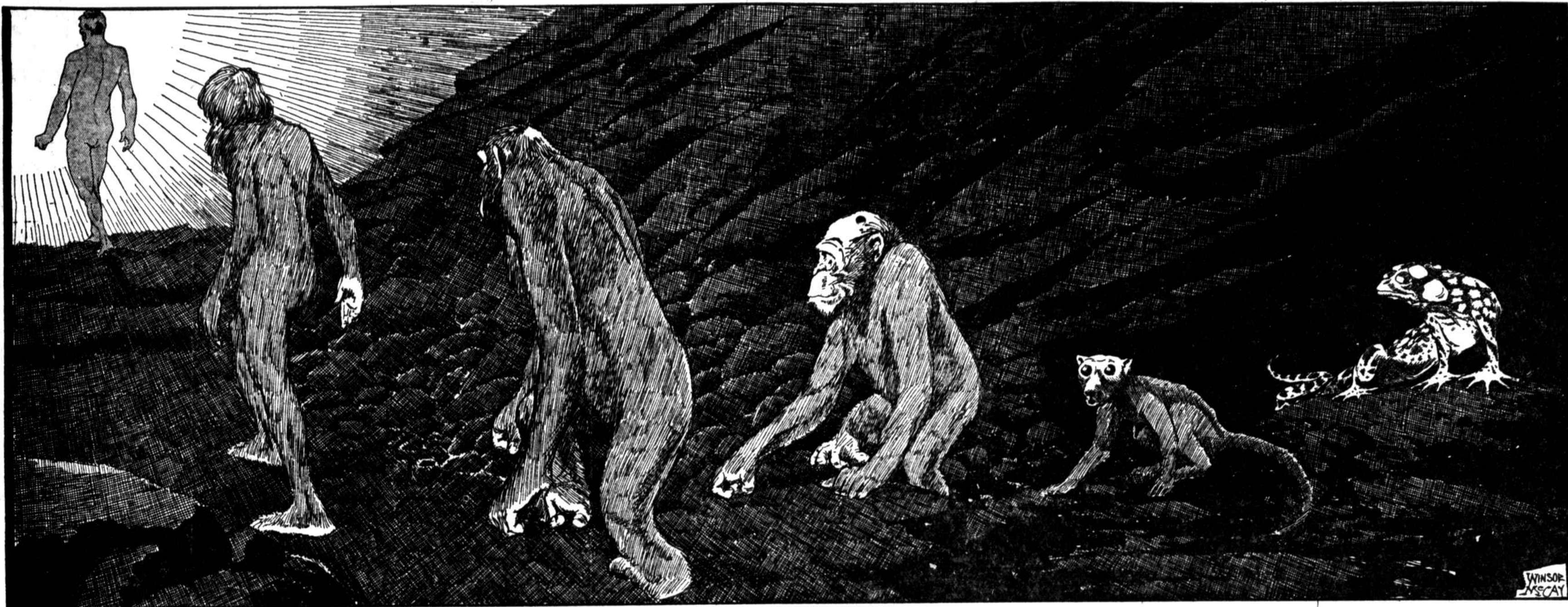


NOT EVOLUTION, PERHAPS, BUT—



Copyright, 1922, by International Feature Service. Great Britain Rights Reserved.

W

WITH this picture comes a note from Mr. McCay, who made the picture:

I am no scientist, no theorist. My business is making pictures, putting down what I see in black and white.

Darwin says that men, you and I and all the rest, came slowly through evolution from the lower animals, from the very lowest, so small it would take hundreds of them to make an inch. I have read a little on such subjects, in Spencer, and Huxley, Darwin's "Descent of Man" and his "Origin of Species." But I have not gone far beyond that, and if I had any convictions I wouldn't bore the world with them.

The main thing is that life on this earth is a procession upward. And my picture shows the procession, man at the head, as we know him to-day. The man of the caves and the rocks comes next as he lived in the Palaeolithic or old Stone Age. After that the highest type of monkey, on down to the lemur and the salamander.

Our ignorant and ancient forefathers believed that the salamander could live in the fire and come out unhurt and taught it to their children. We know they were wrong.

Darwin tells us that the salamander gave his five toes to the animals that followed after him, and that is why man has five fingers and five toes and the decimal system. William Jennings Bryan, whom everybody loves for his sincerity, says that isn't so.

I don't KNOW, and so I don't say. Maybe they were all created at once, from the tiniest microbe to the biggest whale. There may well have been in the Garden of Eden a lake big enough for a whale to swim in. Nothing is impossible to Omnipotence. What interests me is the fact that life IS A PROCESSION. We don't know where it came from, we don't know whether it is going. We sit on the curbstone, like a little boy watching a circus procession, new wonders unfolding. WINSOR McCAY.

Darwin, the great English naturalist, greatest of all naturalists, students of nature, died forty years ago. Once the world in general discussed his teachings savagely, intensely. Of late the world had begun to forget him, as it forgets everything. Then came William Jennings Bryan, who, of course, KNOWS nothing about the subject, but who, with his intense sincerity and great eloquence, has aroused interest in Darwin's teachings. Undoubtedly, although he did not plan to do so, he has caused the small percentage that thinks for itself to investigate evolution and Darwin's theories on its own account.

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise."—Matthew XXI: 16.

Mr. McCay shows in this interesting picture the procession of life on earth with YOU, man, at the head, marching off toward the bright light of future knowledge. Behind you comes your ancestor, the man of the cave, that lived here a hundred thousand years ago. There isn't any doubt about that, whatever Mr. Bryan may think or say, for it is proved. Nobody with the intellect of a normal child of twelve any longer questions the fact that the earth is millions of years old.

Back of the cave man comes the huge ape, then the smaller ape with a better brain though a smaller body. Back of him comes the strange lemur, humblest of all the monkey tribe. And far back the salamander. He had finished his "evolution," assuming that any animal ever passed through a period of evolution, millions of years before the primates, animals of man-like shape, ever appeared on the earth.

For millions of years, all life on this planet was in the ocean. That is not guess-work or subject to anybody's opinion; it is positive FACT. Gradually living things came from the water and managed to live part of the time on land and part of the time on water. After a while they separated themselves from the water entirely and became land animals. And to-day, after millions of years, among nearly all animals, there is a craving to get back to the water, where they lived originally. You see it in the migrations of different creatures to the sea. You see it in the little boy that rushes eagerly to the

Here Is Part of the Long Animal Procession Upward from the Ancient Past, Lost in the Darkness of Millions of Years Ago, to the Present World of Active Life as We See It.

There Is Much Discussion About "The Descent of Man," About Evolution, Some Denying Without Knowing the Facts, and Others Affirming What They Also Do Not Know.

Whatever Be the Truth, It Is Certain That One Form Has Followed Another in the Earth's History, as in This Picture of the Primitive Man, the Huge Ape, the Lower Ape, and the Lemur Follow Each Other. Back of Them Stands the Salamander of Ten Million Years Ago, Supposed to Have Given to All of Them Their Five Fingers and Toes.

puddle, and puts his feet in it, whenever he has the chance.

Instead of denying what Darwin says or blindly accepting what he says without knowing, the intelligent man and woman will STUDY THE FACTS. In Darwin, in Wallace, in Huxley, in Haeckel, in Herbert Spencer and the others.

First of all you will be amazed to find how ancient habits and ancient forms persist, when they are no longer needed.

When you see the skeleton of a gigantic whale, nearly a hundred feet long, in the British Museum, you see with the blubber and the flesh stripped off, the tiny little bones of legs, no longer used by the gigantic creature.

In Darwin's "Origin of Species," page 256, Vol. II., you read of the common salamander which "has gills, and passes its existence in the water."

Darwin, quoting to G. H. Lewes, calls attention to a most remarkable fact. "The salamandra atra, which lives high up among the mountains, brings forth its young full-formed. This animal never lives in the water. Yet if we open a gravid female, we find tadpoles inside her with exquisitely feathered gills; and when placed in water they swim about like the tadpoles of the water-newt."

That salamander mother, living in the mountains, ages before had lived in the water, and her young were little tadpoles that gradually changed into salamanders after they were born. Now she lives high in the mountains, yet, before they are born, the young salamanders go through the tadpole stage. And when removed prematurely from the mother they are able to swim and live in the water—although they would die if put in the water after they had been born fully formed.

There is something in that to puzzle those that sweep all theory aside with a mere "I don't believe it."

Knowledge or opinions that you accept from others, have little value. READ, HEAR, SEE all you can and then form YOUR opinion. Aristotle, first of great naturalists, discussed evolution from his point of view more than twenty-two hundred years ago. The word evolution hadn't been invented, but in his writings he observed that it is childish to believe that everything is intentional, mapped out, planned. Some things HAPPEN, according to outside surroundings, or what moderns call "evolution." Aristotle said that rain does not fall in order to make the corn grow, any more than it falls to spoil the farmer's corn when it is threshed out of doors. He asks: "What hinders the different parts (of the body) from having this merely accidental relation in nature, as the teeth, for example, grow by necessity, the front ones sharp, adapted for dividing, and the grinders flat and serviceable for masticating the food?"

He refers also "to the other parts in which there appears to exist an adaptation to an end."

Very dimly Aristotle foresaw what Darwin called "the

principle of natural selection," that is, bodies developing in various ways, the most useful things being kept, those least useful or harmful abandoned or perishing through the generations.

To study evolution thoroughly, you would read back through many years. You would find Lamarck outlining Darwinism long before Darwin. You would find Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire, who went to Egypt with Napoleon and his band of scientists, to be herded with the donkeys "in the centre" when the fighting began.

That Saint-Hilaire suspected, one hundred and twenty-five years ago, that what we call species are different generations of the same animal type.

Whether or not there is evolution in the bodies and brains of animals, from tadpole to man, there is certainly evolution in the minds of men. Gradually their theories take form until the casual word of Aristotle, teacher of Alexander the Great, expands into the volumes of Darwin, regarded by many, although not by Bryan, as teacher of the human race.

FIND THINGS OUT FOR YOURSELF. Listen to Mr. Bryan with respect and patience. Read Darwin with intelligence and attention. You can get his books at the public library. Try "The Descent of Man" or the "Origin of Species." Every page will interest you intensely, quite apart from the theories that Darwin developed from facts presented.

If the two books suggested seem heavy, get his "Expression of the Emotions." That will interest and lead you to other books. In those books, quite apart from the Darwin theory, which you may accept or reject, you will find an immense amount of actual knowledge that should be part of every intelligent man's mental equipment.

Did the giraffe get his long neck reaching up throughout the ages to get the leaves from trees that had no low branches? You know how hard it is for him to eat grass, he must spread his legs apart and look awkward. How did the elephant develop his long trunk, the tapir and anteater their short trunks?

Were the elephant and hippopotamus originally land animals driven back to water when they found life on land too strenuous? Did the monkey gradually stand up straight, as he migrated from the edge of the water into high lands, standing on his hind legs for convenience, holding a stick with his front hands or holding to trees on the mountainside?

Goethe was a Darwinian before Darwin. He said the important thing was to find out how cattle GOT their horns, not how they are used. It was he who announced that the bud and flower are the development of the leaf, and that the skull and brain are the development of the top joint of the spinal column.

One thing is sure, there is constant change in all living things even now. Frequently men are born with six fingers and toes. There has been one case of a man born with twenty-four fingers and toes. "Our oldest cultivated plants, such as wheat, still reveal new varieties; our oldest domesticated animals are still capable of rapid improvement and modification."

There is no stagnation, no fossilizing in life, it changes constantly.

In the unimportant opinion of this writer, Darwin was wrong—not as wrong as Mr. Bryan, for that would be impossible. When you are CERTAIN WITHOUT KNOWING, you achieve the maximum of inaccuracy.

But Darwin delighted with his great discoveries, attributed TOO MUCH to evolution, gave too little credit to creative power and creative adaptation, attributed too much to accident, too little to DESIGN.

When you study in the rocks, where scientists find fossilized animals, in museums, where they are gathered, and in books, you see life constantly changing.

That does not mean that it has all been ACCIDENT. It does not forbid you to believe as you want to believe, that man stands on his hind legs that he may SEE THE STARS, and look away from the dull earth, NOT because some monkey walked uphill and grasped the tree trunks as he climbed the mountainside.

What has happened throughout millions of years on this earth, life passing from a single cell through many complications to its highest development in man, also happens, in a brief period, in the unborn life of every human being. In his "Descent of Man," Darwin publishes pictures, exact, of an unborn human and an unborn dog of about the same age. You could not easily tell them apart. There is before birth a period of evolution or "development" in which the human being passes through various animal stages. Nobody can deny that, but it does not mean that man descended from the monkey. And by the way, DARWIN NEVER SAID THAT MAN DESCENDED FROM THE MONKEY. He did say, as Huxley said, that "in his mode of origin and the early stages of his development, man is far nearer to the ape than to the dog."

We talk more than we ought to do about marvelous man and the monkey supposed to stand back of him. Creation is marvelous in every phase, especially among the insects.

The "cerebral ganglia" or brain of an ant is perhaps one-tenth the size of the head of a pin.

In that tiny brain dwell affection, industry, combativeness, intelligence, the power to plant and harvest crops, the power to make slaves of weaker animals. Well might Darwin say "the brain of an ant is one of the most marvelous atoms of matter in the world, perhaps more so than the brain of a man."

Back of it all, above the ant, above the monkey, above Darwin and even above Mr. Bryan, there presides an Intelligence, controlling this procession of life, controlling all the suns and planets, in all the universe.

To that great Intelligence our little discussions about creation, evolution and all the rest of it must seem pitiful.

Fortunately for man he longs for knowledge, struggles to free his brain, to reach the unknown regions of truth, and he will reach them in the millions of years ahead.

This aspiration is like the craving of animals for migration, of which Darwin says concerning the migratory instincts:

A confined bird will at the proper season beat her breast against the wires of her cage, until it is bare and bloody. It causes young salmon to leap out of the fresh water, in which they could continue to exist, and thus unintentionally to commit suicide.

Every one knows how strong the maternal instinct is, leading even timid birds to face great danger, though with hesitation, and in opposition to the instinct of self-preservation. Nevertheless, the migratory instinct is so powerful that late in the Autumn swallows, house-martins and swifts frequently desert their tender young, leaving them to perish miserably in their nests.

Keep in mind as you listen to this argument or to that, the Bible command: "Prove all things." Don't let others do your thinking and proving for you. PROVE all things for yourself.